



2021

WELCOME GUIDE

Joint Task Force-Bravo

Soto Cano Air Base, Honduras



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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
Headquarters, Joint Task Force-Bravo
APO AA 34042-5000

Office of the Commander

Dear Service Member,


Congratulations on your assignment to Joint Task Force-Bravo! You have just joined a very unique unit, based at Soto Cano Air Base in Honduras, operating throughout Central America. JTF-Bravo is a subordinate command of U.S. Southern Command responsible for a Joint Operations Area which encompasses the seven Central American countries. Our focus is on integrating capabilities internal to JTF-Bravo and external entities within our network. This focus enables combined operations to effectively counter transnational organized crime, build our partners' capacity, and quickly respond to human assistance/disaster relief contingencies. Service in JTF-Bravo will prove to be both challenging and incredibly rewarding.

JTF-Bravo is a joint organization, comprised of more than 600 U.S. military personnel and more than 500 U.S. and Honduran civilians who serve across five different units including the 612th Air Base Squadron, Army Forces Battalion, and the 1st Battalion, 228th Aviation Regiment. Our force executes operational missions on a daily basis in a very complete environment. Although the operational tempo is high in this deployed environment, our Service Members will have opportunities to travel throughout Central America.

Please take the opportunity to review our Welcome Guide as you make preparations for your new assignment at Soto Cano. Like any overseas deployment, there are many details you will need to facilitate a smooth transition. Our Welcome Guide contains expansive information about base facilities, the unit you may be assigned to, administrative details, and the history of JTF-Bravo. Don't hesitate to ask questions about your upcoming deployment. We will ensure you receive a response quickly to make this transition as simple as possible. We look forward to having you as a valued member of our joint team as you transition to our unit and quickly integrate into our operations.

Once again, welcome to Joint Task Force-Bravo. "Progress through unity!"

Sincerely,


EDUARDO FERNANDEZ-GONZALEZ
CSM, USA
Command Sergeant Major


STEVEN E. GVENTER
Colonel, USA
Commanding

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*The inclusion of company names or products in this document does not imply endorsement by the U.S. government.

A History of Progress Through Unity

U.S. and Honduran forces conducted combined training exercises as early as 1965. In 1983, the Honduran government requested an increase in the size and number of those exercises.

Joint Task Force-Bravo was established in August 1984 to exercise command and control of U.S. forces and exercises in the Republic of Honduras. It is a subordinate command of U.S. Southern Command. Before being designated JTF-Bravo in 1984, this task force was known as JTF-11 and then later as JTF-Alpha.

HISTORICAL TIMELINE

- **1982** : Palmerola Air Base is constructed
- **1983**: JTF-11 is established and later re-designated JTF-Alpha
- **1984**: JTF-Alpha is re-designated as JTF-Bravo with the added mission to deter Nicaraguan aggression (2000+ personnel)
- **1992-1994**: Bilateral humanitarian and civil assistance operations. Transitional period (1,130 personnel)
- **1995**: Downsizing/reorganization (710 personnel)
- **1996**: Revised OPOD Central Champs (449 personnel)
- **1997**: Commander-in-Chief's Theater Engagement plan issued, calling for Soto Cano to serve as strategic gateway to theater
- **1998**: JTF-Bravo provides disaster relief Assistance in Honduras after Hurricane Mitch
- **1999**: 1st Battalion, 228th Aviation Regiment assigned as tenant unit from Panama
- **2000**: 612th Aviation Squadron activated
- **2002**: JTF-Bravo's mission revised to include joint and interagency operations
- **2007**: JTF-Bravo dispatches medical team to Peru in response to a severe earthquake
- **2010**: JTF-Bravo supports operation Unified Response in Haiti
- **2014**: JTF-Bravo provides repatriation flights and aid to regions in Honduras following tropical storm Hannah
- **March - April 2016**: JTF-Bravo provides support fighting wildfires in Tela, Honduras and the Darién Province, Panama
- **October 2016**: JTF-Bravo provides assistance and humanitarian aid to Haiti following Hurricane Matthew
- **March 2017**: JTF-Bravo provides support in combating large forest fires in Honduras
- **Sept 2018**: JTF-Bravo provides hurricane relief assistance in collaboration with USAID/OFDA as part of JTF-Leeward Islands
- **July 2019**: Medical Element and Joint Security Forces deactivated — Medical Detachment and Security Forces created to fall under the Army Forces Battalion
- **Nov 2020**: JTF-Bravo personnel provide assistance to Honduras, Guatemala, Panama and Colombia after hurricanes Eta and Iota.





JOINT TASK FORCE-BRAVO

Key Tasks

- Operate a forward operating site capable of day/night airfield operations
- Conduct foreign humanitarian assistance and disaster relief
- Support and enable component theater campaign efforts
- Support operational access and combined/multilateral exercises
- Plan and conduct operations in support of U.S. law enforcement agencies
- Facilitate the Central America community of Interest
- Expeditionary capabilities

JTF-Bravo supports U.S. interests in Central America by:

- Conducting operations and activities in support of law enforcement agencies in Central America
- Developing cooperative security arrangement and confidence-building measures between neighbors that contribute to reduced regional tensions
- Meeting and coordinating with ambassadors, country teams, military group commanders, senior defense officials and defense attachés
- Exercising combined forces; JTF-Bravo normally supports three to five large exercises annually that are directed by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

Our Motto: *"Progress Through Unity."*

Our Mission:

JTF-Bravo supports and conducts USSOUTHCOM operations, activities and investments across all domains, in support of U.S. government agencies and partner nations in the Central American region, in order to enhance regional security and defend the U.S. homeland and national interests. On order, JTF-B will deploy for crisis response as directed by USSOUTHCOM within the area of responsibility.

Who we are:

Located at Soto Cano Air Base, Honduras, JTF-Bravo outcompetes adversaries; organizes multi-lateral exercises in cooperation with partner nations and other U.S. Agencies; and supports transnational organized crime, humanitarian assistance/disaster relief, and defense institution building to promote regional cooperation and security in Central America.

What we do:

JTF-Bravo conducts and supports joint operations, activities, and investments throughout the joint operational area, maintaining a forward presence to enhance regional security, stability, and cooperation in support of the USSOUTHCOM Commander's Campaign Plan.

Major Subordinate Commands that Make Up JTF-Bravo

Joint Staff

The staff provides command and control, staff assistance, operational, logistical and administrative support for forces deployed in the geographic area in support of U.S. Southern Command-directed operations. The staff includes Manpower & Personnel (J1), Intelligence (J2), Operations (J3), Logistics (J4), Plans (J5), Communications (J6), Engineers (J7), Resource and Budget (J8), Civil Military Operations (J9), as well as Protocol, Judge Advocate, Provost Marshall, Surgeon, Chaplain, and Public Affairs.

Army Forces Battalion (ARFOR)

The ARFOR Battalion Headquarters mission is to provide Soto Cano with base support services, joint reception, staging, onward movement, and integration to rotational forces, and operational support to JTF-B. The units that enable the mission are the Headquarters Support Company, Combat Support Hospital, Civil Affairs Company, Military Police Company, Preventative Medicine Detachment, Financial Services, and Contracting Services. The Battalion includes permanent change of station positions, 9-month rotational units and individual augmentees.

Medical Element

The ARFOR Medical Element consists of U.S. Soldiers and civilians, along with Honduran professionals working together to provide a wide range of health care services to U.S. troops stationed at Soto Cano Air Base.

The clinic provides routine clinical care/sick-call, emergency medical care, dental services, pharmacy, patient administration, laboratory, veterinarian care for military working dogs, preventive medicine, radiology, behavioral health services and physical therapy.



The clinic also offers on-call services after hours and facilitates TRI-CARE referrals to Tegucigalpa for services not provided on base.

All service lines are on-call 24/7, 365 days per year, with services available for emergencies outside normal duty hours. The medical team also engages in medical readiness training exercises and surgical missions, working with our partners throughout Central America.

Sick Call Hours

0630-0800, M-F via walk-in with a sick call slip

Clinic Hours

0900-1130 & 1300-1600, M-F by appointment
via DSN 449-4190

Civil Affairs Company

The Civil Affairs Company is made up of five teams located throughout the Central American region that work in communities on-the-ground to build and strengthen partner nation capacity.



Military Police

ARFOR Military Police conducts installation security, force protection and security support for personnel recovery, search and rescue, counter transnational organized crime, disaster response, noncombatant evacuation order, and humanitarian/civic assistance in support of JTF-Bravo operations and U.S. Southern Command operations throughout Central America. Their mission capabilities also include military working dogs and handlers who are used on-base for narcotics and explosive detection, as well as patrol. The unit also actively participates in subject-matter expert exchanges with forces in Central America to enhance partner nation capacity.

1st Battalion, 228th Aviation Regiment (1-228 AVN)

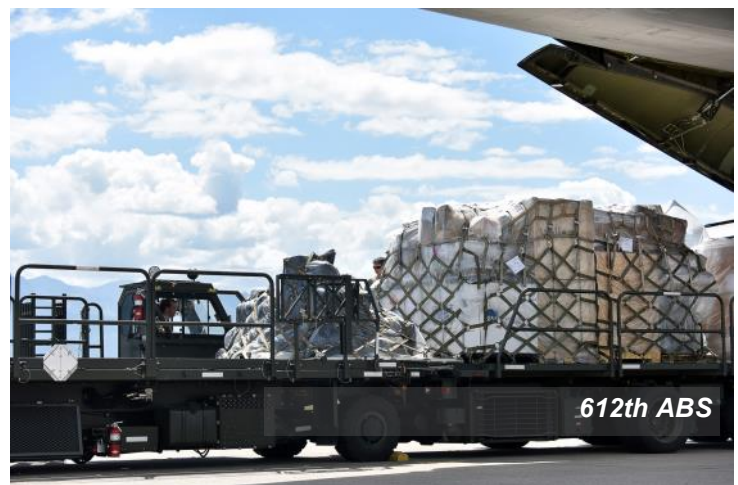
The 1st Battalion, 228th Aviation Regiment's mission is to conduct general support aviation operations in support of JTF-Bravo. It is a composite battalion with UH-60 Black Hawks, CH-47 Chinooks, as well as medical evacuation detachment HH-60 helicopters. The battalion is capable of deploying and sustaining operations throughout the theater. Typical missions conducted by the battalion include: countering transnational organized crime, humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, air movement of people, equipment and supplies, aero-medical evacuation, and search and rescue.

In addition to these operational missions, the battalion participates in selected special events and VIP support missions.



612th Air Base Squadron (612th ABS)

The 612th Air Base Squadron provides essential airfield services to maintain Soto Cano Air Base as a strategic, C-5M Super Galaxy capable airfield in Central America. The squadron directly supports the 1-228 AVN and JTF-Bravo, the Honduran Air Force, transient aircraft operations, and other deployed aviation units. The squadron is organized into four flights, with expertise spanning air traffic control, meteorology, airfield and radar system maintenance, transient aircraft services, POL, vehicle maintenance, airfield rescue and firefighting, base civil engineer support, supply, airfield management, small air terminal, and aerospace ground equipment.





Army Support Activity

Army Support Activity is a forward deployed, expeditionary Installation Management Command headquarters. ASA was established in 2008 to provide expeditionary base operations support to tenant units, organizations, and activities operating on and from Soto Cano Air Base.

ASA Soto Cano manages garrison and installation activities and services in direct support of the Commanding General, U.S. Army Southern Command, who serves as the garrison commander for Soto Cano AB. The ASA commander serves as the senior commander's representative on Soto Cano AB to enable readiness and mission execution, while providing quality services and facilities, optimizing resources, sustaining the environment and enhancing the well-being of the entire Soto Cano AB community.

Mission: ASA Soto Cano simultaneously integrates installation operations and delivers base operations support in order to enable tenant organizations to conduct operations, activities, and investments within the USSOUTHCOM area of responsibility.

ASA-Soto Cano's higher headquarters is U.S. Army Installation Management Command (IMCOM). IMCOM is the Army's Home — maintaining facilities and services so that war-fighting commanders can focus on their mission.

Living Quarters for Soto Cano Service Members

Furnished government quarters are provided for military and DOD civilians on orders to Soto Cano AB. Lodging consists of temporary quarters, barracks and quads, available for all personnel based on rank and availability. Due to ongoing refurbishment and construction all personnel may be required to live in temporary quarters for a portion of their tour at Soto Cano. Army Support Activity also manages the Soto Cano AB Dining Facility and Education Center that is committed to implementing quality educational programs as well as the Base/Post Exchange facility, offering a variety of merchandise.

Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs are also available. *(see page 20 for more information)*



Soto Cano AB, Honduras

PRIOR TO ARRIVAL

Requirements and Preparations

Passport and Clearances

Though the Foreign Clearance Guidance states Honduras does not require an official passport to enter the country, per the USSOUTHCOM reporting instructions **official no-fee passports are required for all personnel** PCS or TDY for 30 days or more. Due to the various missions in various countries with CENTAM, once again, **official no-fee passports are required.**

Personnel traveling to Honduras in TDY status for 29 days or less may enter the country with a valid identification card and travel orders in accordance with the Foreign Clearance Guide. Please see

<https://www.fcp.pentagon.mil/fcg>

All personnel are encouraged to initiate a passport (*check for service specific requirements based on PCS, TDY, or deployment status*) upon assignment notification. The Honduran Government, through coordination with the JTF-Bravo liaison at the U.S. Embassy, will allow personnel to enter the country for up to 90 days if the passport is delayed. Contact JTF-Bravo J-1 for assistance with passport issues (see *director*ate). Additionally, all personnel need to obtain theater and country clearances through the Aircraft and Personnel Automated Clearance System (APACS) prior to arrival (see *SOUTHCOM and service-specific Reporting Instructions for additional information*).



Medical Records and Screening

The DD form 2766, Deployment Health Record, and Dental Records are required to in-process. Service members are required to be fully deployable with a current HIV test, tuberculin skin test, PHA, hearing test, vision screening, and dental exam. Screening should be in accordance with USSOUTHCOM regulation 40-501, DOD ASD (HA) memo and DOD USD (P&R) Instruction 6490.07

Immunizations

The following immunization must be valid for the duration of assignment and received prior to arrival on station: annual Influenza, hepatitis A (two shot series with the second shot six months after the first), hepatitis B (required for medical personnel, recommended for non-medical), MMR, polio, tetanus/diphtheria, typhoid and Yellow Fever. Negative HIV results must be recorded within six months of assignment as well as recorded results of the purified protein derivative (PPD) tests for tuberculosis. Personnel must have vaccination record in-hand for arrival to station.

Medications

All personnel must take anti-malaria medication while at Soto Cano AB and should arrive with a sufficient supply to cover their entire length of stay, plus an additional 42 days. Pay attention to the directions for the particular anti-malaria medicine you are prescribed, as most require you to begin taking them prior to arrival.

Since the pharmacy's availability of medications cannot be guaranteed due to supply limitations, personnel with chronic medication needs should bring sufficient quantities to cover the entire length of their stay. All personnel must enroll in the TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy (<http://express-scripts.com/TRICARE>) and will receive needed medications through the mail.

Flight Status Personnel

Bring a copy of your current DA Form 4186 (up-slip). Ensure you have a current completed flight physical in AERO with your flight surgeon before departing for Honduras. Any needed waivers must be completed prior to your departure as medical resources are limited and may require you to return to CONUS permanently if not completed.

Administrative Requirements

- Official Passport (*mandatory*)
- Theater and Country Clearance (APACS)
- Isolated Personnel Report (ISOPREP)
- Immunization Record
- Government Travel Card
- Medical and Dental Records
- SGLI Option Form
- Record of Emergency Data
- ID card (CAC)
- ID tags (2 sets)
- 10 copies of orders
- Copy of last performance evaluation
- Weapons Qualification Scorecard
- Physical Fitness Test Scorecard
- Copy of Defensive Driving Certificate (if job requires it)

- Valid driver's license (*DL must be current to drive off post. Members with an expired DL accompanied by a Military Expiration Endorsement from their issuing state will only be authorized to drive on post*)
- DTS Account
- Human Rights Certificate
- Anti-terrorism Level 1 Certificate
- SERE 100

NOTE: There are some requirements that are based on PCS, TDY, or deployment status. Please refer to your gaining unit and sponsor for any additional requirements.

Medical Personnel

Doctors, dentists, physicians assistants and nurse anesthetists need to send a copy of their transfer brief, delineation of privileges, current license, MD/DO/DDS/PA/RN/CRNA diploma and any special diplomas to the JTF-B Surgeon Cell Credentials Coordinator, Ms. Juana Torres, juana.e.torres.fn@mail.mil, no later than 60 days prior to arrival. The Honduran Ministry of Health requires these documents to grant provider privileges. If you have questions, contact DSN 449-4165 or 449-4376.

Suggested Reading

Contact your sponsor for a list of pertinent directives and/or regulations related to your assigned duties at Soto Cano AB. At a minimum, personnel should be familiar with [Joint Publication 3-33, Joint Task Force Headquarters](#), to understand the guidance governing to day-to-day operations of JTF-Bravo and its contributive directorates, staff agencies and units.

You should also bring:

- CPR/BLS/PALS/ATLS certifications
- EMT certification
- LPN license

Required Equipment:

- OCP/NWU (3x)
- Patrol cap
- Boot socks
- Class A/B with rank (>180 days/PCS)
*Confirm with your sponsor
- Class B with rank (TDY)
- Mess dress (CDRs/DIRs)
- Physical training uniform (4x)
- Civilian clothes
- Personal hygiene items
- Bath towels
- Shower shoes
- Wash cloths

For Job specific equipment requirements, please coordinate with your unit sponsor. Some of these items can be purchased at BX/PX on base.



Arrival in Honduras Must-Know Information

Travel and Excess Baggage

All personnel must travel to Honduras in civilian attire by U.S. commercial aircraft into Tegucigalpa, the capital city of Honduras. Service members must check their orders for authorized bag and weight limitations; there may be job-specific exceptions.

You must remember to make reservations for the shuttle bus from the airport to Soto Cano through your sponsor. If you have not received confirmation 10 days before your arrival date, call JTF-B J1 (see *page for contact information*).

Tegucigalpa Airport

Upon arrival into Toncontín International Airport, located in Tegucigalpa, personnel will disembark the aircraft and walk into the immigration area. Make sure you go through the official passport line, not the tourist/Honduran immigration line. Passports will be checked and personnel will be stamped into the country.

After, proceed to the baggage claim area to collect bags. Then walk through the exit and into the airport's main entrance area.

Depending on the number of bags you have, a Honduran local may assist you with carrying them; their tip should be in U.S. dollars. Carrying small bills is a personal choice at your own risk.

The ride from Toncontín International Airport to Soto Cano AB in Comayagua is approximately 90 minutes. The daily shuttle bus departs from Tegucigalpa between 12 p.m. and 2 p.m., or after the last arrival. If you are not met and are unable to find the driver at the airport, call the Soto Cano operator at 2713-5123 and ask for the Joint Operations Center (JOC) at extension 449-4149.

Tegucigalpa House

Personnel who don't make the shuttle bus connection will stay overnight at the house in Tegucigalpa, which is run by JTF-Bravo's Embassy Liaison Office (LNO).

The LNO team can be contacted during duty hours at the U.S. Embassy at DSN 449-8357 or commercial line +504-2238-5114, extension 4812/3812. After duty hours the LNO OIC can be reached at +504-9450-3403 and the LNO NCO can be reached at +504-9450-3421.

The Tegus House is not a hotel, it is used to provide authorized individuals a clean and secure facility to remain overnight in Tegucigalpa while in the performance of official duties.

Individuals visiting the Tegus House are guests of the JTF-Bravo Command Team and, as such, will conduct themselves in a manner conducive to good order and discipline.

Individuals are responsible for arranging their own transportation and meals. This includes travel to and from the airport. No guests are authorized unless cleared by the JTF-Bravo Commander, Command Sergeant Major, or the JTF-B LNO, acting as their representative.



Reservations for the Tegus House must be sent via email. Only in emergency situations will phone reservations be accepted.

In-Processing

Service members and DOD civilians will need their military/DOD ID card to get onto Soto Cano Air Base. Your unit sponsor will meet you upon arrival and escort you to your quarters and unit.

In-processing activities are mandatory and will not be superseded for any reason. You must go to J1 first to obtain your overall base in-processing checklist. You will also receive an in-processing checklist from the unit that you will be assigned to. Please see below under "Reporting Information" concerning your unit assignments. All personnel, regardless of rank, are required to attend the newcomers' briefing held every Tuesday at 9 a.m. at the base theater, followed by the in-processing line at 11 a.m. at the Friendship Chapel.

Unaccompanied Baggage & Household Goods

Incoming personnel who PCS with personal property shipments need to in-process through the Joint Personnel Property Shipping Office (JPPSO). Personnel must provide their name, building number and phone number. This information is needed to contact members when their shipment arrives.

JPPSO will contact service members once their shipment arrives to arrange for delivery. Deliveries are usually scheduled for Fridays only.



Reporting Information

For members assigned to ARFOR/J Staff:
Contact the ARFOR BN S1 at DSN: 449-6216
and report with your sponsor to Building M-06.

For members assigned to the 1-228 AVN:
Contact the 1-228 S1 at DSN: 449-6471 and
report with your sponsor to Building R-32.

For members assigned to the 612th ABS:
Contact the 612th CSS at DSN: 449-6253
and report with your sponsor to Building M-01.

For members assigned to ASA or any unit not
mentioned: Contact the J1 Staff at
DSN: 449-4642 and report with your sponsor
to Building E-0059.

A JPPSO representative will be present during delivery in case questions arise. If loss or damage occurs to a shipment, members may file a claim with the legal office within 70 days of receipt of shipment. You will need all shipping documentation as well as DD Form 1840.

LIFE AT SOTO CANO

Basic Guidelines

Policy Guidelines

- Service regulations governing standards of uniform wear and appearance will be followed
- JTF-Bravo newcomers should become familiar with both JTF-B and ASA Policy Letters upon arrival

JTF-B Command Policy Letter #1 is the JTF-Bravo commander's policy that outlines expectations for individual conduct and behavior while at Soto Cano AB. Compliance with this directive is mandatory.

All events and issues within the base boundaries must adhere to ASA policy. All personnel will adhere to the ASA Commander's policies with MSC Commander's able to be more restrictive. For mission-related policy outside the installation, the JTF-B Commander has the authority to enforce for mission units within the structure.

Uniform Wear

- The service fatigue (OCP/NWU) is the duty uniform

- PCS personnel will bring the service dress uniform. TDY personnel will bring the Class B uniform. MSC commanders and directors should also bring mess dress uniforms for special occasions
- Aviators or service members whose duties involve flight operations can wear flight suits

This policy applies to military personnel assigned to Soto Cano AB.

Civilian Clothing

- Clothing will reflect good taste and decency
- Attire with sexual or demeaning messages, logos or drawings will not be worn
- Service members will not wear uniforms off base unless conducting official duty
- Appearance must create a favorable impression
- Men must wear shirts with sleeves off base, but collared shirts are not required
- Wear civilian clothing while traveling on civilian air in the U.S. Southern Command area of responsibility
- It's advisable to bring work gloves for various volunteer events and work requirements

General Guidelines

- Identification tags must be worn during missions and while flying in military aircraft
- Service members will comply with respective service regulations for jewelry, tattoos and piercings

Prohibited Items

The purchase, possession, carrying or concealment of privately owned firearms is prohibited. The concealment of firearms and ammunition by U.S. military and DOD civilian personnel in the Republic of Honduras is forbidden unless authorized by the JTF-Bravo commander, DOD regulations, applicable service regulations, or other federal agency regulations.

Service members are not authorized to ship privately owned weapons or ammunition to Honduras, regardless of what their orders may say.

Additionally, the possession or use of other weapons such as pellet guns, throwing stars, throwing darts, bows/crossbows, nun-chucks, blow guns, brass knuckles, etc., are prohibited. Knives with blades longer than five inches will not be carried (openly or concealed) on/off Soto Cano AB.

Privately owned vehicles are not allowed for U.S. service members.

This policy applies to military personnel assigned or attached to JTF-Bravo and those performing duties with or under the command/administrative control of the JTF-Bravo commander.

Service members and DOD civilians are not authorized to bring or possess pets while assigned to Soto Cano AB.

Pay & Allowances

Military will receive hardship duty pay for location in the amount of \$100 per month. All TDY personnel must be in country for at least 30 days prior to receipt.

Military members with dependents will receive family separation allowance in the amount of \$250 per month.

All personnel should have direct deposit and make necessary allotments required for dependent care and financial obligations prior to arrival.

The Government Travel Card is the medium for travel advances. Members should be issued a GTC prior to departure.



Be Advised!

Weapons, pets and privately owned vehicles are not authorized for service members at Soto Cano AB.

Infrequent travelers (two TDYs or less per year) are not required to have a GTC. The JTF-B resource manager (J-8), will re-activate/transfer the GTC upon arrival at Soto Cano AB for Army PCS personnel only.

Wi-Fi Connectivity

There are multiple options for private Internet services for members stationed at Soto Cano AB. The two most used are *Intesa* and *Cable Color*, which offer different packages. There are also locations around base including the gym and the MWR center that have free WiFi connectivity.

Military Leave Entitlements

The following guidelines will be used for leave entitlements based on the rate of 2.5 days for each full month of active service.

Honduras does not fall under the Special Leave Accrual (SLA) program and service members who are at risk of losing leave during their deployment (FY use-or-lose), should plan on using the leave prior to arriving (deployed AF on J-Staff do fall under this).

Leave may not be used to shorten a tour (i.e., during the last month of a tour).

Leave is authorized for all PCS personnel and Army TDY personnel. Leave is NOT authorized for deployed Air Force personnel.

Shuttle Bus Service

Shuttle bus service is provided to both Comayagua and Tegucigalpa. The shuttle may be used by U.S. military and DOD civilian personnel.

Dependents of U.S. military and DOD civilian personnel may ride the shuttle bus on a space-available basis. Space permitting, other individuals possessing base passes may also use the shuttle bus service.

Passengers may not interfere with the driver or routes by requesting to deviate from designated stops or routes.



Shuttle Services

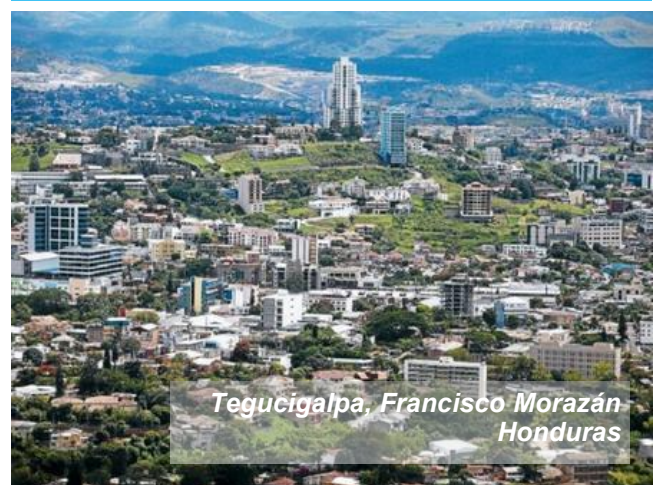
Comayagua Shuttle Bus

The Base Operations Service Support (BOSS) shuttle bus provides a free bus service between Soto Cano AB and Comayagua from 0500-0200 the following morning.

BOSS contract employees must be given priority consideration between 0530-0830 and from 1600-1800, Monday through Friday.

Tegucigalpa Shuttle Bus

The Tegucigalpa shuttle bus provides free weekend and holiday service between Soto Cano AB and Tegucigalpa malls and hotels.



Finance

The Finance Office provides check cashing, foreign currency exchange, as well as military pay and travel services.

The Finance Office will cash personal checks up to \$250, and accept all U.S. Treasury Checks, money orders, and travelers' checks. However, third-party checks cannot be cashed at the JTF-Bravo Finance Office.



For information on how to get/use an Eagle Cash card:
https://www.fiscal.treasury.gov/fsservices/gov/pmt/eagleCash/eagleCash_home.htm

Currency

U.S. dollars are used in most on-base facilities. Although dollars may be accepted at many off-base establishments in the local area, Honduran lempira is preferred.

Base personnel may exchange dollars for Lempira at the Finance Office or U.S. Embassy located in Tegucigalpa.

Soto Cano AB has ATMs serviced by the Bank of America PLUS System, Armed Forces Financial Network, American Express Company, Discover and other financial organizations. Honduran ATMs are also available to obtain lempira.

Legal Office Services

Available services include powers of attorney, wills, legal classes, translations, notary, tax assistance, and claims for lost or damaged personal property. Service members are advised to complete powers of attorney and settle legal matters prior to arrival.

Mail Service

- U.S. Postal Services on Soto Cano AB include stamps, money orders and package mailing. Only U.S. currency and Eagle Cash Card are accepted for payment
- National Guard and Reserve personnel, DoD civilian personnel and contractors in support of U.S. Armed Forces and DoD activities are authorized APO privileges while assigned to Soto Cano AB
- Service Members assigned or attached for 12 months or more will be issued an APO box—all others will be able to use general delivery
- Retired U.S. military personnel and their families are authorized APO privileges, but are limited to sending and receiving items weighing less than 16 ounces
- Organizations or persons in the U.S. cannot send anything intended for anyone other than the authorized APO box owner



Post Office at Soto Cano AB

Mailing Address

Name
PSC 1300, Box # or General Delivery
APO, AA 34042

Dining Facility

The dining facility offers a great variety of foods on both the main line and the short-order line. The menu includes many ethnic meals, taco, potato and pasta bars on different days, and a salad bar every day.

Military personnel, DOD civilians, approved government contractors, and official and unofficial guests of the ASA commander are authorized to use the dining facility.

Meal Rates		
	Discount Rate	Standard Rate
Breakfast	\$ 2.70	\$3.65
Lunch	\$ 4.45	\$5.85
Dinner	\$ 3.85	\$5.10
Holiday	\$ 7.10	\$9.55
Monday-Friday		
Breakfast		0730-0930
Lunch		1130-1330
Dinner		1700-1830
Weekends and Holidays		
Breakfast		0730-0930
Lunch		1130-1330
Dinner		1700-1830
Personnel not authorized to eat at the dining facility must request formally to the ASA commander the circumstance.		



Soto Cano Dining Facility

Education Services

The Education Center is committed to improving the readiness of all service members by planning and implementing quality educational programs and services.

The education center offers a full range of services to support both personal and professional development. Services include: distance learning, counseling, education financial programs, testing, language proficiency, and computer lab facilities. Additionally, the education center offers English as a Second Language, Rosetta Stone, virtual study, and Head Start Spanish course, which allows personnel to fully immerse themselves into the Honduran culture. Personnel completing the 40-hour Spanish course receive a certificate of training.



Laundry Service

Army Support Activity also operates an on-base laundry service (at a cost), which includes uniform pressing, dry cleaning and alterations.

The Laundry Shop is located in building K-80.

Weekly Schedule:
Monday-Thursday 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

Base/Post Services*

Soto Cano AAFES Main Exchange is a retail facility offering a variety of merchandise: food, snacks, health and beauty care, cleaning, laundry, bedding, house wares, clothing, sports and outdoor items, and wide variety of electronic products (TVs, sound systems, laptops, DVD players, mp3 players, etc.). Class VI items, as well as soft drinks, sports drinks, energy drinks, and flavored waters are also available.

Food services have been offered by the Soto Cano Exchange since 1999 at its current location. The facility was upgraded in August 2012 and now includes a Subway.

Espresso Americano offers cappuccinos and other varieties of hot and cold drinks made with Premium local coffee.

TIGO provides cellular phone services (Telecom Services).

Beauty and Barber Services provides basic services to include manicure, pedicure, and massage service.

The Barber Shop located by the housing office offers military haircuts.

Service members should bring sufficient quantities of uniform items as the BX/PX supply is limited.

Active Duty, National Guard and Reserve personnel, and U.S. civilians meeting special employment criteria with the U.S. government are authorized AAFES complex privileges.

**No federal endorsement intended*

Family members who are visiting Soto Cano AB or residing in the local area are authorized privileges as well.

Family members of personnel assigned or attached to the U.S. Embassy or U.S. Military Group in Tegucigalpa are authorized access upon presentation of their Embassy Green identification badge and DD Form 1173 or White Commissary Card (indicating approved tax-exempt status). Military personnel and DOD civilians are authorized to use the U.S. Embassy Exchange.

The BX/PX accepts U.S. currency only.

There are also Honduran vendors not operated/owned by AAFES or the U.S. Government located on Soto Cano AB.

Other services provided are:

In-store services

- Western Union money transfer
- Local currency exchange
- Video rental
- Postage stamps

Convenience special order

- Gift cards
- Military Exchange credit card services
- Online shopping at <https://www.shopmyexchange.com/>



Morale, Welfare and Recreation

The MWR office provides service members with a wide variety of recreational activities and exotic trips throughout the country of Honduras.

MWR offers terrific programs at hard-to-beat prices. However, most activities are free and transportation is provided.

For those activities and travel arrangements with costs, MWR continually strives to offer the highest quality at the least cost to customers.

Service Members will be able to experience the many aspects of this Central American country when participating in these events and activities.

Programs offered here:

- Recreation center and library
- Basic scuba certification
- Basketball and tennis courts
- Outdoor swimming pool
- Sports fields and quarter-mile running track
- Wood shop
- Hammock shop
- Fitness center
- Variety of indoor/outdoor sports equipment
- Post theater
- Free golf passes and golf club rental
- Computer rooms with free Wi-Fi
- The Last Resort Community Clubhouse
- Multiple tours available:
 - The “Valley of Angels” Francisco Morazan
 - “Pulhapanzak Waterfalls” San Buenaventura
 - Lake Yojoa, Honduras
 - And many more

**All activities could be suspended or delayed during times of crisis or national emergency.*



Valley of Angels,
Francisco Morazán, Honduras



Lake Yojoa, Honduras



Pulhapanzak Waterfalls,
San Buenaventura, Honduras



Recreation Center

CHAPEL SERVICES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Soto Cano Friendship Chapel

The JTF-Bravo Command Chaplain's Office provides for the free exercise of religion and implements the commander's vision through employing core competencies (e.g. religious support & advisement), and conducting humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. The command chaplain serves as the POC for humanitarian outreach to local villages.

If you have questions about chapel services or programs, including humanitarian outreach volunteer events, or if you have concerns about your spiritual fitness and would like to make an appointment for confidential pastoral counseling, please contact the Chapel Office.

- Chapel office DSN 449-4845
- Resource specialist DSN 449-4845
- Religious affairs NCO DSN 449-4844
- Command chaplain DSN 449-4895

Sunday

- 0845 Roman Catholic Confession
- 0915 Roman Catholic Mass
- 1100 Protestant Worship Service
- 1600 Latter-Day Saints Fellowship

Monday

- 1800 Protestant Bible Study

Wednesday

- 1200 Protestant Bible Study (Spanish)
- 1800 Roman Catholic Bible Study



Interacting with children during a Chapel Hike



Volunteers visit a local orphanage



Habitat for Humanity participants

About Honduras

Background Information

The Republic of Honduras is located at the heart of Central America. It borders the Caribbean Sea (to the North), Guatemala, Nicaragua, and the North Pacific Ocean between El Salvador and Nicaragua (to the South). Honduras has a total area of 112,090 square miles, making it slightly larger than Tennessee.

On the northern part of the country, bordering with the Caribbean Sea, lie the Bay Islands. They are very popular for scuba diving and are known for their massive coral reef barrier, which is the second largest natural reef in the world.

Across the country you may find clear turquoise waters, pristine beaches, lush jungles, breathtaking mountains, and challenging rivers to explore as well as enjoy the history of the country through the Mayan ruins of Copán or colonial cities and towns such as Comayagua.

Honduras has 18 departments and its capital city is Tegucigalpa, located in the department of Francisco Morazán, and is approximately 51 miles away from the historical city of Comayagua.

The official language is Spanish but English is widely spoken in businesses and it is the main language used in the Bay Islands.

Official currency is the lempira but dollars are accepted in most commercial areas and some parts of the country. Exchange rate as of June 2021 is L. 24.03 per \$1.00.

The climate is sub-tropical in low lands, temperate in mountains. The rainy season is from May to October and the dry season is from November through April.

The estimated population is 8.5 million people.



The Basics in Honduras

Do

- Respect host nation laws, regulations, customs, traditions and people
- Stay alert while traveling, remain security conscious (review Off-limits areas)
- Greet and shake hands with everyone when introduced or meeting someone
- Use official titles and last names unless told otherwise
- Purchase items on local currency if possible
- Pay the posted price for taxi fares or agree on a price before getting into a taxi

Don't

- Ridicule host nation customs, traditions, standard of living or people
- Visit areas or establishments deemed off-limits
- Give rides to strangers
- Display arrogance or intimidate host nation civilian populace
- Beckon anyone with the index finger
- Make unauthorized transfer of U.S. currency or merchandise
- Drink tap water on or off-base



USEFUL SPANISH PHRASES

- Good day/afternoon/night
- Hello
- Goodbye
- Please
- Thank you
- You are welcome
- Yes/No
- Sorry
- Pleased to meet you
- Where is the bathroom/phone?
- I am a member of the U.S. Armed Forces
- What is your name?
- My name is...
- Help, Police!
- I need help, quick!
- Can you help me?
- Does anyone here speak English?
- I want to go to the American Embassy.
- How much does this cost?
- Thank you for your help.
- How are you?
- Very well, thank you.
- Excuse me.
- Please speak slowly.
- What time is it?
- The menu, please.
- What did you say?
- I am hungry.
- I am thirsty.
- One soda please.
- The bill please.
- Another one please.
- What is happening?
- See you later.
- See you tomorrow.
- I need a taxi.
- Ok.
- Buenos días, buenas tardes/noches
- Hola
- Adiós
- Por favor
- Gracias
- De nada
- Sí/No
- Lo siento.
- Gusto en conocerle.
- ¿Dónde está el baño/ teléfono?
- Soy miembro de las Fuerzas Armadas de los Estados Unidos
- ¿Cuál es su nombre? / Cómo se llama?
- Mi nombre es ... / Me llamo...
- Ayuda, policía!
- Necesito ayuda, rápido!
- ¿Puede ayudarme?
- ¿Alguien aquí habla inglés?
- Quiero ir a la Embajada de los Estados Unidos
- ¿Cuánto cuesta esto?
- Gracias por su ayuda.
- ¿Cómo está? / ¿Qué tal?
- Muy bien, gracias.
- Con permiso. / Permiso.
- Hable despacio, por favor.
- ¿Qué hora es?
- El menú por favor.
- ¿Qué dijo?
- Tengo hambre.
- Tengo sed.
- Un refresco por favor.
- La cuenta por favor.
- Otro por favor.
- ¿Qué pasa?
- Hasta luego.
- Hasta mañana.
- Necesito un taxi.
- Cheque.

EMBASSY - CONSULAR SECTION SERVICES

Are you a United States Citizen under Military or Government orders?

You may file a residency petition at the U.S. Embassy in Tegucigalpa for the following:

- Honduran spouse
- Single biological children under the age of 21
- Stepchildren under the age of 21 if marriage took place before his/her 18th birthday

For more information please contact:

tggi-130@state.gov



Are you a Legal Permanent Resident who has served honorably in the U.S. armed forces for at least one year?

You may be a candidate to apply to be naturalized abroad. For more information please contact tggivnatz@state.gov

Do you require notary Services?

Consular officers are authorized to notarize documents and issue Single Statements. A 'Single Statement' is required for U.S. citizens getting married in Honduras.

Are you a US Citizen who needs to apply for/ renew a U.S. Passport?

The Consular section in Tegucigalpa processes United States passport applications for U.S. citizens abroad. All applicants must appear in person to submit their passport applications.

You May apply for:

- Tourist
- Service
- Official
- Diplomatic

For more information please visit:

<https://hn.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/passports/>

Are you a US Citizen who wishes to transmit citizenship to your child born in Honduras?

If your child was born outside of the United States and you believe he/she may have a claim to U.S. citizenship, your first step is to apply for the child's Consular Report of Birth Abroad. This document is proof of U.S. citizenship and is generally a prerequisite for the issuance of a U.S. passport. Although applications are accepted until the child's 18th birthday, you should apply for the Consular Report of Birth Abroad immediately after his/her birth.

For more information please visit: <https://hn.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/birth/>

Due to COVID, the Consular has limited access and it is recommended to email your request for an appointment to the following email:

usahonduras@state.gov



CONTACT INFORMATION

Contact Information

The country code for Honduras is 504. If calling from the United States, commercial dial 011 504 2713-5123 + extension number, or dial direct via DSN at (312) + extension number.

World Wide Web

Access the JTF-Bravo website <http://www.jtfb.southcom.mil/> for additional command information and stories on JTF-Bravo.

The website also contains information for family members under the Featured Information section.

Useful Numbers

- Command Group 449-4177
- J1 Personnel & Manpower 449-4642/4122
- J2 Intelligence 449-4120
- J3 Operations 449-4413
- J4 Logistics 449-6082
- J6 Communications 449-6303
- J8 Budget/Contracting 449-4993
- J9 Civil Military Operations 449-4851
- S1 JEB/1-228th 449-6502
- Joint Security Forces 449-4170
- 612th Air Base Squadron 449-6253
- Army Support Activity 449-6237
- Public Affairs 449-4150

Follow us on Social Media



Facebook: Follow us at Joint Task Force-Bravo (Government Organization) and join the Soto Cano Air Base private group SOTO CANO Life for updates on base activities, services and closures. Also, be sure to check out the Garrison Command at Army Support Activity.



Twitter: Follow our official JTF-Bravo Twitter account @jtfbravo and see our commander's updates at @JTfB_CDR for the latest news on all activities and missions.



Instagram: Check out exclusive photos from life at Soto Cano AB on our official Instagram.



Flickr: Visit our Flickr page for photos at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/jtfbravo/>



YouTube: All our videos are posted on our YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/user/JTfBvideos/videos>

For additional questions, please email JTF-Bravo Public Affairs: southcom.sotocano.jtfb-pao.mbx.jtf-b-public-affairs-office@mail.mil

Requirements before Arrival (Supplemental Checklist)

Complete all items listed prior to deployment and ensure items remain up-to-date during the period you are working at Soto Cano. It is the responsibility of the service member that PCS, TDY, or deploy to Soto Cano ensure that all the required items are completed before official travel. **For job and unit specific requirements, check with the appropriate sponsor ask your unit sponsor for details (a sponsor from command—e.g. JTF-B, ARFOR, etc,—is required).** This checklist does not supersede any approved list provided by your PCS, TDY, or deployment authority. This is to ensure that requirements are met before arrival, regardless of your particular circumstance for work at Soto Cano Air Base.

SOTO CANO AIR BASE REQUIREMENTS CHECKLIST		
Requirement	SM initials	Supervisor initials
Receive sponsor from command as applicable. Sponsor name: _____ Email: _____		
SM has APPROVED theater/country clearance through APACS prior to entry. https://apacs.dtic.mil/apacs/login.jsp		
SM has completed PROFILE requirements (ISOPrep) https://prmsglobal.prms.af.mil/prmsconv/profile/survey/survey.aspx		
SM has completed the following training requirements: - Cyber Awareness Training (Army/Navy/Marines: DoD Cyber Exchange , Air Force: JKO) JKO training courses: https://jkodirect.jten.mil/Atlas2/page/desktop/DesktopHome.jsf - Level 1 Anti-terrorism/force protection Course # JS-US007 - SERE 100.2 level A SERE Course # J3TA-US1329 - Human Rights training Course # J3SN-US649		
*For additional Service specific training, check associated pre-deployment checklist		
Official Passport: associated orders must include "Official Passport Authorized and Required". *Ensure that you meet the requirements relevant to your Service's PCS, TDY, or deployment authority as these may vary based on position and assigned unit located at Soto Cano Air Base.		
Active Government Travel Card: call the phone number listed on the back of the GTC to ensure the associated bank has the card activated.		
Up-to-date Immunizations & immunization card: annual Influenza, Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B (required for medical personnel, recommended for non-medical), MMR, Polio, Tetanus/Diphtheria, Typhoid, and Yellow fever vaccination.		
Active Defense Travel System (DTS) account: https://dtsproweb.defensetravel.osd.mil/dts-app/pubsite/all/view/ Please verify that your account information (banking info, GTC info, current address, email) are correct. Contact your home station unit DTS administrator if you do not have a DTS account.		
DD form 2766, Deployment Health Record, and Dental Records are required to in-process		
Active CAC ID card (valid throughout the duration of your tour to Soto Cano AB)		
ID Tags (Dog tags) x 2 sets		

***This is a supplement to U.S. Army, Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps reporting instructions. Refer to the appropriate checklist for additional requirements.**

Unit 1SG or E9 - Approval	Unit CDR – Approval
Printed name:	Printed name:
Signature and Date:	Signature and Date:



DSN: 449-4664

Comm: (504) 2713-5123 ext. 4494664

southcom.sotocano.jtfb-pao.mesg.jtf-b-public-affairs@mail.mil
www.jtfb.southcom.mil

